MEDIA RELEASE

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LINKING MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL

A six-month project to connect Murrumbidgee Council's three branch offices is now complete.

ATI Australia carried out the mammoth task and officially handed over the microwave Wide Area Network (WAN) project to Council last week.

General Manager Craig Moffitt said this was an important step in establishing the new Council.

"The investment in this technology will ensure Council now has a reliable data link connecting our offices to support our internal business system," Mr Moffitt said.

"A critical element in the implementation process was providing this connection between the Darlington Point, Coleambally and Jerilderie branch offices."

The project involved constructing a 50-metre telecommunications tower at Bundure, which is located halfway between Coleambally and Jerilderie. Also included in the project was the installation of a monopole in Darlington Point and a smaller pole located adjacent to the Branch Office in Coleambally.

In addition to improving connectivity for Council the work has opened the door for improved mobile coverage for residents.

Council is currently in discussion with telecommunications providers to potentially fill the black spot in the Yanco Creek area between Coleambally and Jerilderie.

Mr Moffitt said the completion of this project allows Council to operate more efficiently.

"We now have a unified corporate data network to support the use of information management systems and software across the three offices," he said.
"This was a significant body of work to improve connectivity and the ability to enhance our computer network and it is good to see it finished."

In collaboration with Council the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) co-funded work to strengthen an existing tower at Coleambally and this will enable enhanced communication between their offices.
Additional equipment was also added to an existing RFS tower at Jerilderie.

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